17 1948

· Cotton-Makers Jubilee

Memphis Beauty To Hollywood As "Spirit Of Jubilee"--Screen Tests

Atlanta Daily World

Miss Dorothy Lewis, 18-year-old attractive daughter of Mrs. Mildred Lewis, 924 Miss. Blvd., left Memphis early Wednesday morning via an American Airlines plane to embark on two weeks of hilarity and good will as the "Spirit of Jubilee." She will present a scroll to leading Los Angeles and Hollywood dignitaries telling about the 1948 Cotton-Makers Jubilee, Negro phase of the now world-famed Cotton Carnival. Tues. 4-27-48

While in Hollywood Miss Lewis, freshman at LeMoyne, will be given screen tests at some of the movie houses. She will return in time for the Jubilee celebration May 9th through the 15th. Miss Lewis is being accompanied by Miss Ethyl Venson, wife of the originator of the Cotton-Makers Jubilee, Dr. R. Q. Venson, and the first Queen of the Jubilee. 4-27-48

Atlanta, Ga.

Miss Lewis was sponsored by the Boone Higgins Trade School of which Melvin Conley is director.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER — Beauteous Dorothy Jean Lewis, 18-year-old LeMoyne College freshman, is being congratulated as the 1948 "Sprit of Jubilee" at Ellis Auditorium shortly after she had won an entire field of other lovely contestants for the honor. Felicitations are extended by Mr. Melvin Conley, director of Boone Higgins Trade School which sponsored Miss Lewis. Reward of victory is an air trip to Los Angeles and Hollywood, Calif., where "The Spirit of Jubilee" will extend invitations to West Coast dignitaries to attend the 1948 Cotton-Makers Jubilee, during the middle of May. She will also be given a screen test with good possibilities of being considered for a film career.

Miss Lewis, daughter of Mrs. Mildred Lewis, 924 Miss. Avenue, left early Wednesday morning of this week by the American Airlines for the Coast. She was accompanied by Mrs. Ethyl Venson, first Cotton-Makers Jubilee and wife of the originator of the celebration.

Memphis Fete Rivals Famed Mardi Gras

Chicago Ill.

Crowning Of Adult, Juvenile Monarchs Climaxes Gay Week

Dec. 5-24-48

By David W. Kellum
(Staff Correspondent)

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (Special)—Dixie's greatest Negro celebration, the famed Cotton Makers' Jubilee which created week long excitement, reached its full climax Friday, with the crowning of an adult and juvenile King and Queen as the ruling monarchs.

Old timers along famous Beale Street, now known as Beale Avenue, say that this year's jubilee was the gayest and most colorful in the 11 year history. Features included picturesque parades, coronation ceremonies for adult and julvenile king and queen, street dancing, royal teas and a general entertainment of the hundreds of visitors to the city. 5-24-48

Round of Festivities

With the celebration over Memphians are beginning to settle down, but the memory lingers on-memories of the Zozo Club Teen-Agers ball, coronation of the children's king and queen-Jerry Smith Jr., and Gloria Jean Clark, the coronation Wednesday night of the adult king and queen, Elmer Henderson and Patricia Cummings at Martin Stadium, thrilling baseball game between the Memphis Red Sox and the Cincinnati Clowns and, climaxing it all, the colorful parade down Beale Ave.

A fitting finale to the jubilee celebration was the Children's Parade Friday morning, starting on Butler at Fourth St., and the grand jubilee parade featuring eight electrically lighted floats bearing out the 1948 theme—"Cotton, King of the Delta."

King Henderson and Queen Cummings rode on the "lead" float, following the 1948 "Spirit of Cotton," Miss Dorothy Lewis, 18 year old LeMoyne college freshman.

"The Spirit of Cotton," the adult and juvenile king and queen along with other royalty, occupied specially built thrones at Handy's Park to review the parade.

Cotton Crop Pantomime

Maurice Hulbert, Jr., who recently staged the famed Booker T. Washington high school ballet at Ellis auditorium, was in charge of the special show arranged for jubilee guests in front of Handy's Park on Beale Ave. Dancers depicted in pantomime the cultivation of a cotton crop. They plowed the soil, planted the seed, chopped and picked cotton—all, in rhythm.

The Manassas Rhythmaires, a group of boy singers, gave their interpretation of a special arrangement of Duke Ellington's "Cotton," arranged by Andrew Williams, a Manassas teacher. This reviewing stand review closed with the singing and dancing of George Gershwin's "Summertime" by the students of Booker T. Washington high school. Nat Williams, well known newspaper man and teacher, served as master of ceremonies.

Officials Lauded

As the 11th annual Cotton Makers Jubilee goes down in history as one of the most successful events ever staged by and for Negroes in Memphis, the following officers and members of the committee are receiving praise:

Board of Incorporators—Dr. R. Q. Venson, chairman; Dr. B. F. McCleave, vice chairman; Clifton Satterfield, secretary; Robert wright, treasurer; Prof. Nathaniel Williams, publicity director; John McFathon, Eddie Hayes, Prof. Lucky Sharpe, Prof. Blair T. Hunt Dr. W. H. Young and Dr. B. B. Martin.

Board of Directors — Clifton Satterfield, Nathaniel Williams, Lieut. George L. Pamphlet, Prof. J. D. Springler, L. O. Swingler, Mrs. Hattie Sanders Dr. R. Q. Venson, Lieut. George O. Swingler, Prof. A. Marvin Young, Irby Fogleman, Bartlett Duncan, Dr. W. E. Panell W. Lee, L. B. Morant, Eddie Hayes, Mrs. Alura Stams, Mrs. Ethyl Venson, Mrs. Evelyn Stuart, Robert Morris, Romie L. Nunnelee, D. W. Howard and Miss Mrs. Susie Hightower, Roosevelt Cook, John McFathon, Mrs. Prudence G. Allison, Prof. J. A. Hayes Hicks, Mrs. Annie B. Hickman, sey. Prof. W. C. Williams, Prof. Edwin Mrs. Carlotta Stewart, Dr. B. B. C. Jones, Mrs. Edna A. Swingler, Martin, Henry Hooks, Jr., Dr. E. Miss Lucy A. Campbell, Prof. W. Frank White, Mrs. Anna M. Strong.

LeMoyne Freshman, Dorothy Lewis, Leaves For Hollywood And Screen Tests As 1948 "Spirit Of Cotton"

Memphis Tri-State Defender

One of Bluff City's prettiest and most talented young women, Miss Dorothy Lewis, 1948 "Spirit of Cotton," left Memphis early Wednesday morning via American Airlines for Los Angeles and Hollywood, California.

Miss Lewis will serve as a pioneer representative of the Memphis Cotton-Makers Jubilee Association's famed Jubilee celebration, of the Memphis Cotton Carnival.

A LeMoyne College Freshman, Miss Lewis was selected 1948 "Spirit of Cotton" after a spirited competition against six other attractive and popular young "Memphis women.

She won the title and was presented at the Jubilect, pre-Jubilee program staged at Ellis Auditorium on the night of April 14th.

The contestants for the title were sponsored by the various trade schools in the city. Majority of the students in the trade schools are veterans of World War II. The contestants and the schools they had as sponsors included: Misses Emma Faye Robinson, LeMoyne College Freshman and sponsored by the Lumpkins Barber College; Margaret L. Willis, Tri-State Tailoring School; Annie Jean McGhee, Alonzo Locke Training School; Cleo Witherspoon, National Trade School; Opal Lee Taylor, Henderson Business College; Eloise Harris, Bodden Tailoring School, and Miss Lewis, sponsored by the Boone-Higgins Trade School of Memphis.

While on the West Coast, Miss Lewis will be the guest of Dr. C. R. Hill, prominent civic leader of Los Angeles. She will be given a tour of the city. Later she will be taken to Hollywood, California. where she will visit the various movie studios and given screen tests.

Following several days on the Coast the "Spirit of Cotton" will go to Chicago, Ill., where she will be the guest of various civic and social leaders in the Windy City.

She will return to Memphis in time for the observance of the 1948 Jubilee, scheduled for the dates of May 9th through the 15th. During those dates, Miss Lewis, as the Spirit of Cotton, will be the "sparkplug" of the traditional celebration which includes mammoth parades, cultural programs, dances, and other features, designed to emphasize the importance of cotton to the economic order of the Mid-South and other cotton producing areas.

5-8-48

Her California plane trip will mark the first time in the history of this area that a Negro girl has been selected and given the opportunity to symbolize the primary staple of the "cotton country." White girls have been selected over a period of some twelve years . . . designated as "Maid of Cotton" . . . and sent to various sections of the United States and even to foreign countries to publicize the "silver fleece."

The Memphis Cotton-Makers Jubilee Association, founded by a Beale Street dentist, Dr. R. Q. Venson, states as one of its main objectives the "publicizing of cotton and the promotion of favorable publicity to the Negro, one of the primary factors in the production of the mainstay of the cotton producing states' economy.

The 1948 "Spirit of Cotton," Miss Lewis, is a native-born Memphian, the daughter of Mrs. Mildred Lewis of 978 Mississippi Boulevard. She is a Freshman of LeMoyne College, an AMA School in Memphis. She is a talented dancer and actress, having starred in amateur productions of theatricals at Booker T. Washington High School, of which she is a 1947 graduate. She specializes in ballet and toe dancing at LeMoyne, with the expectation of either going on the stage or becoming a Physical Education instructress. Miss Lewis is the granddaughter of one of the city's pioneer Negro business families, the late C. A. Gillis, first Negro chain-grocery owner in Memphis, being her maternal grandfather. Her grandmother, Mrs. Gillis, resides at 924 Mississippi Avenue.

The eighteen-year-old Spirit of Cotton has five brothers and two sisters.

She was given a temporary leave of absence from her studies at LeMoyne College, by school officials.

Upon her return to Memphis—in time for the 1948 Jubilee celebration, Miss Lewis will be one of the key figures in what is expected to be one of the greatest and most widely-publicized celebration in the eleven-year history of the Jubilee observance.

Cotton-Makers Jubilee Fails to Depict Negro Gains, Writer Finds

Pittsburgh - Courier

By FRANCES BENDIX

(Special to The Courier)

Pittsburgh, Pa.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—The Cotton-Makers Jubilee celebration in the Bluff City succeeded in gaining some sympathetic publicity in the Southern newspapers, but a bitter taste still lingers in the mouths of many Memphians who did not participate in the activities or merry-making of the Beale Streeters.

Sat. 6-5-48

The major criticism levelled against the Jubilee is that it helps perpetuate the stereotype of the Negro cotton picker; it does nothing to depict the adavncement or achievements of the Negro peoples. The Memphis Cotton-Makers Jubilee Association falls a bit short of one of its purposes—that of "building and maintaining a higher community spirit and morale."

The entire show is still directed by the founder, Dr. R. Q. Venson, prominent Beale Street dentist and civic leader. And it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to obtain the necessary voluntary assistance to carry out his spectacular ideas.

The many hours of labor on the part of participating school children and adults cannot be overlooked. They give time, effort, and energy to put the program across — but there are always those left out of things to whom a place in the sun is also important.

After one week of parades, parties and dances, the thoughtful colored Memphian asks, "What have we accomplished?" the answer is painfully obvious — the Jubilee has merely imitated the white cotton carnival; including the "royal families" — with limited lavishness because the white folks still have more green stuff to play with.

Some Jubilee supporters make a big a-do about the titles of royalty applied to Negroes in the local white papers which find it impossible at all other times to print the word "Mrs." or "Miss" in front of Negro names. The Jubilee seems a big price to pay for a few days of sympathetic titles in the local white papers.

Another criticism voiced by thoughtful Negro Memphians is that the color-caste system among the Negroes still stands in the way of their true progress . . . that the parades highlight and focus attention upon the more prosperious, influential, self-styled Negro leaders.

Sat 6-6-48

Most Negroes don't go on Main Street to view the white parades, and they are not allowed to participate in the Midway amusements thrown open to thousands of tourists. The vicious pattern of segregation and exploitation in the South still serves to kill the dreams and hopes of thousands. Thus the dark-skinned Memphians line Beale Avenue to watch the free show, finding another excuse to drink, shout, and otherwise let off oppressive steam.

Dale 6565

The pernicious influence of the color-conscious white Southerner has pervaded the thinking of the Southern Negro to the point where he has adopted many phrases coined by the white man. The internal conflicts in the Negro world make it even more difficult to break through the feudal traditions of the South. But ever so often the walls crumble due to the actions of some people who believe in the principles of democracy, and a ray of light exposes the greedy, ignorant, "superior" being.

Negro Dairy Show

Uniontown To Stage Second Display Soon After Last Year's Event So Successful

BY FRED TAYLOR

Today Uniontown, one of the Black Belt's most progressive cities, takes another big step toward helping Negroes help themselves.

This is the day Uniontown is holding its second all-Negro Dairy Show. It was such a success last year, when sponsored by the Uniontown Exchange Club and supported by citizens in general throughout the community, that it was decided to make the exposition an annual affair.

TAYLOR

Milton G. Walker, Uniontown banker and Exchange Club member, said last year's show was the first of its kind ever presented in the South. Henry P. Johnston, radio mogul who hails from Uniontown, sent this column a copy of this year's exposition program.

If the program's any indication, today's show should be even more successful than the one a year ago. It is bulging with advertisements not only from Uniontown merchants, farmers and business men but from concerns at Demopolis, Greensboro, Faunsdale, Newbern, Marion and other Black Belt communities.

* * *

AUBURN AND TUSKEGEE HELP—Last year the Black Belt community, with the cooperation of Alabama Polytechnic and Tuskegee Institutes, put over the dairy show.

They are helping again. The show program contains this foreword of endorsement and appreciation by P. O. Davis, director of Auburn extension service:

"This show is a sound and important event. I am in favor of it because 'more and better dairy cows are needed in this area.'

"This is just as true of Negro farmers as white farmers. Each wants a bigger income in cash and richer land, plus a better and wholesome diet which is contained in milk.

"Wherever dairying is done properly, farmers have a high income and they enjoy a high standard of living. People are healthy and their land is better.

"And I'm very grateful to the Uniontown Exchange Club and to others for their excellent cooperation in making it possible. It is another example of the fact that people 'GAIN' by cooperation."

RACE-CONSCIOUS — The Black Belt is understandably more race-conscious than other sections of Alabama because Negroes outnumber whites as much as 10 to 1 in some areas.

There, as Walker points out, "We are most conscious of the so-called 'civil rights' question."

"Our club realizes," he emphasized, "as does every thinking person in the South, that the South one can work out this problem through education and other assistance to the Negro, as exemplified by projects of this nature."

* * *

POLITICS — The Black Belt also takes its politics seriously and, also understandably, is militantly backing the States' Rights Thurmond - Wright presidential ticket. In connection with this the Dallas County Farm Bureau is holding a big barbecue rally for Mississippi's Gov. Fielding Wright, the vice presidential nominee, at 3 p.m. next Tuesday.

Rep. Walter C. Givhan, one of the 11 Democratic elector nominees pledged against Truman first and then to the Thurmond-Wright ticket, writes the rally will be held at Twilley's Lake, near Selma.

Negro Dairy Show Planned

Four Counties To Send 120 Representatives To Exhibition

UNIONTOWN, ALA., Oct. 11.—The second annual all-Negro dairy show will be held here Thursday and 120 Negro dairies are planning entries.

Dallas, Hale, Marengo and Perry Counties will be represented.

The show is sponsored by the Uniontown Exchange Club and will be financed by bankers and businessmen of the community.

A first prize of $200 will be awarded to the best registered heifer.

Negro dairy income has shown rapid gains. Approximately 16,000 is paid every two weeks for their produce. Negro farmers are being educated in the value of Grade B milk as a supplement to their farm income. Most of the farmers raise cotton in connection with their dairy work.

Rigid requirements are put on the production of milk in order to make the milk acceptable anywhere in the event a surplus of milk develops.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute and Tuskegee Institute are cooperating with the exhibition.

CANEBRAKE ECONOMIC NOTE

On Pg. 3 of yesterday's Advertiser was printed a news story that suggests a fact of Southern life more important possibly, than any outpourings of Truman or Thurmond on the subject of civil rights.

It was the story of the Negro Dairy Show at Uniontown Thursday in which 120 Negro dairies are planning entries. Dallas, Hale, Marengo and Perry Counties will be represented. These Negro dairymen sell something like $8,000 worth of milk a week.

Who is sponsoring this show, at which there will be a $200 prize? The Uniontown Exchange Club, the bankers and business men of the community.

The why of that sponsorship is highly important. It means that these hard-headed white men of the Canebrake whose business is capital and returns have found that these Negro dairymen are good business risks and that their prosperity is the Canebrake's and the Black Belt's prosperity.

These Negro farmers merit all the encouragement they are getting and the enlightened men who are giving it are to be congratulated. When Negroes demonstrate their reliability and enterprise, when they buy land and insurance, they are advancing on the most certain highway, as Booker Washington foretold a long time ago.

Other Side of New Orleans' Mardi Gras

Zulu Parade Is Called Disgraceful Spectacle

By FRANCES BENDIX
(Special to The Courier)

NEW ORLEANS—Crescent City annually invites visitors (white, of course) to view its Mardi Gras parades with a sense of appreciation for beauty and tradition. And, on the other hand, there is the Zulu parade, which for years has furnished the same visitors with comic exhibitions of stereotypes in the traditional Southern conception of the Negro.

Behind all the preparations for this annual pre-Lenten festivity and merry-making, few people were aware this year of the political buck-passing and hasty changes which presaged a new awakening of New Orleans Negroes, a subtle but stiff threat to white supremacy conceptions.

The traditional white parades employ Negroes only as flambeau carriers (torchbearers) and mule attendants. Leading white parades they trudge along, white-shrouded, cowled, about sixteen hot, weary miles.

During this time they bear torches, which at the outset weigh about fifty pounds, because of the oil they burn. They lighten as the distance grows shorter.

Among the flambeau carriers, things have changed. They demand more money for "toting the bales." Among Negroes in general, things have changed. They want a "more dignified participation" in the parades. And here lies the crux of the big change.

For the first time in the history of Crescent City, the Zulus reportedly were given taxpayers' money ($1,400 to $1,500) to put on a better show. This is supposed to be the city fathers' reaction to efforts of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Association, newly formed Negro group (1947) to dignify and make meaningful colored citizens' Mardi Gras participation.

A group of colored professional and businessmen, they have no expressed intention of engendering opposition to the Zulus, employes of a white building materials concern, but they do intend to put on a show in keeping with the level and historical advancements of Negroes in New Orleans and throughout the Nation.

How well they will finally succeed only years will tell, but until late last week, city authorities had set up a stiff opposition to NOMGA's parading through any but Negro sections of the city, and at one point suggested that they pick another time for their parade altogether. This point was not settled at parade time.

TORCH-BEARERS BALK

As late as 1946 the flambeau carriers were recruited from among unemployed Negroes at prices up to only $2. Two dollars for carrying fifty pounds of flaming torch head-high . . . sixteen or more miles. In 1946 they too rebelled and demanded $5.

In 1947 it was no better. They again balked for more money. If they received more than the $5 this year, or if they received $5, only the parade participants know at this time. However, developments are, this much is known . . . Negro attitudes toward New Orleans and its famed Mardi Gras parades have changed, and considerably.

Termed by some sources "a disgraceful" commentary on the advancement and progress of Negroes in New Orleans, the Zulu parade may somehow remain with the whites.

This year the new Negro association planned a Mardi Gras spectacle on a float-series theme of "Men of All Races." Numa Rousseve, famed portrait artist, was selected to carry out the theme. The high class theme and sketches met opposition in city council and the association was offered Feb. 7 as a parade date through colored section only.

What the New Orleans Mardi Gras Association will offer next year is too early to predict, but from development since last year and this, one thing seems certain, Negroes in New Orleans are determined that they have something more dignified to offer Mardi Gras visitors than the Zulu spectacle and flambeau carriers.

The newly formed and progressive business and professional men's group is the first tangible step toward this end, and if their efforts succeed Southern "white" conceptions of Negroes are in for a rude awakening even at the cost of New Orleans having a mild political repercussion that reaches city hall.

Negro Fair

A successful Negro County Fair was sponsored at the Lawrence County Tarining School here and was marked by excellent exhibits and splendid attendance and interest. The Corn Show was by far the best ever exhibited in the county..

Business firms of Monticello, Newhebron and Sontag made it possible for first and second prizes to be awarded.

The exhibits were made up of farm products from various sections of Lawrence county. Women and membres of the 4-H Clubs for girls had fine displays of fresh vegetables, cut flowers, eggs, canned products, needlework, quilts, spreads, clothing and laundry work with their cooking skill shown by the cakes, cookies, rolls and biscuits on exhibit.

McLain and Barnes Hardware Company, the Newhebron State Bank and the Magee Tractor Company of Monticello donated four Poland China pigs to the negro 4-H club boys. Boys exhibiting pigs were James Goode, winner of first place; Billy Evans second place; Alvin Bridges, third; A. D. Peyton, Jr., fourth. Roderick Paige was awarded first place for his Duroc Gilt.

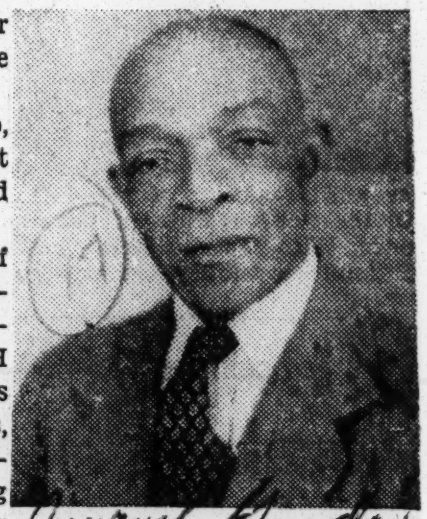
In the Calf Show Sylvester Martin won first place and Clarence Taylor second place.

Negro Businesses Hold Exposition

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (NPS) —The increasing business consciousness of the Negroes of Kansas City is reflected in the first exposition of Negro business which was held here recently. Sponsored by a local organization, the occasion was planned, it was revealed, to mark the progress of the Negro enterprise in this area, and to create a public awareness of this effort.

It was noted that some 29 business concerns were represented in the exposition, and the attendance at the affair was revealed to be encouraging to the sponsors, and to be reflective of a dynamic interest on the part of the city's residents in the business and industrial life in the area.

Re-Elected To Board Of Suffolk Fair



John B. Williams, well-known Norfolk citizen, was re-elected for the third term as a director of the Tidewater Fair Association (the Suffolk Fair) at its recent annual meeting in Suffolk. Mr. Williams said, according to the report of the secretary the [illegible] was the best and most successful in the history of the association. He was elected a director three years ago to fill the place left vacant by the death of W. H. Land, Norfolk attorney. Mr. Williams is the only Norfolkian serving on the board.

Exposition Held At Tuskegee Institute

TUSKEGEE, Ala.,—The second annual industrial exposition which opened at Tuskegee Institute for a two-day showing closed Saturday. The exposition which is designed to present a series of exhibits to acquaint the students of Tuskegee Institute, the Tuskegee community and guests with some of the newer industrial developments, was under the direction of T. W. Jones, dean, school of mechanical industries. Dean Jones pointed out that a further objective of the exposition is to stimulate the activities of the school of mechanical program to the general public.

Exhibits and active demonstrations included printing, tailoring, carpentry, building construction, brick masonry, welding, auto mechanics, photo-engraving, electricity, ceramics, shoe making and repairing, aero mechanics and mechanical drawing. Commercial companies dealing in various mechanical productions also exhibited the construction.